REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 9-12 are currently withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for restriction. By this response to the non-final Office Action mailed on June 9, 2008, claims 7, 8, and 16 are amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed, as discussed below. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully solicited.

Objection to Claims 8 and 13-16

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 8 and 13-16 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are in proper dependent claim form, and request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by JP Patent App. Pub. No. 2001-235534 (Yanagihara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,039,630 (Shimazu). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 5 recites, *inter alia*,

> a means for **obtaining detailed location information on the basis of a correspondence between three-dimensional map data of a present location obtained by said approximate measuring, and three-dimensional data formed of said plurality of image data for the stereoscopic vision**, and presenting the information to a user.

The limitations emphasized above recite differences between claim 5 and the cited art that are not fully addressed by the Office Action, and which are not bridged by the proposed combination of Yanagihara and Shimazu.

Although Yanagihara discloses refining a position obtained via GPS by using a two-dimensional picture, it discloses an entirely different system from what is claimed. Specifically, Yanagihara employs feature extraction and recognition (*see* ¶¶ [0035] and [0059]), which are acknowledged as well-known machine vision techniques (¶ [0042]), in order that "object names, such as a character and number, are extracted from the picture" (¶ [0041] (quoted from machine translation provided by JPO)). It is on the basis of these object names that a lat/long information is retrieved from a database. The disclosed simple character and number-based search for entries in a database is readily distinguished from making "a correspondence between three-dimensional map data of a present location obtained by said approximate measuring, and three-dimensional data formed of said plurality of image data for the stereoscopic vision." This difference is not obvious in view of Yanagihara alone, or in combination with the teachings of Shimazu.

Shimazu does not bridge the gap between claim 5 and Yanagihara. Shimazu discloses producing three-dimensional data from stereoscopic aerial photographs, but the disclosed conversion of aerial photographs is merely a convenient means of collecting three-dimensional data for an urban environment. Shimazu does not suggest (1) that three-dimensional data might be obtained relating to an approximate location, and (2) that such data would further be taken in correspondence with three-dimensional data obtained via stereoscopic image processing in order to obtain a detailed location information related to where the stereoscopic images were taken. In Shimazu, the three-dimensional data obtained from the aerial photographs is subsequently used for the disclosed "3D image browser 4," which provides a search engine that enables searching

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for landmarks and other urban features, and generating a three-dimensional view locations in the captured urban environment. However, the search engine, much like the searching disclosed by Yanagihara, is text-based, as Shimazu discloses it is "a search engine 3 for <u>searching</u> for link information <u>in accordance with keywords</u>" (col. 2, lines 64-65) (*emphasis added*), and "[w]hen the user inputs a <u>keyword sequence</u>, the search engine 3 returns link information" (col. 3, lines 29-30) (*emphasis added*). Shimazu does not disclose or suggest "obtaining detailed location information on the basis of a correspondence between three-dimensional map data of a present location obtained by said approximate measuring, and three-dimensional data formed of said plurality of image data for the stereoscopic vision," as recited in claim 5, and accordingly does not cure the shortcomings of Yanagihara. To the contrary, the disclosed searching is similar to that of Yanagihara.

Thus, at least the limitations recited in the last paragraph of claim 5 are not obvious in view of the proposed combination of Yanagihara and Shimazu. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 5, and dependent claims 6 and 7, as "dependent claims are nonobvious if the independent claims from which they depend are nonobvious." *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *accord* MPEP § 2143.03 ("If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious"). Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 13-16 are allowable, at least because the each depend on claim 5.
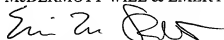
Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner's favorable reconsideration as to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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